

Thursday, March 2, 1876.

## THE REVENUE SERVICE.

The following letter to the editors was received Thursday morning.

JONESBORO, Feb. 29, '76.  
Messrs. Sevier & Baker, Editors of the Union and American:

I desire to make my bow to you, and to our mutual friend, H. M. of the *Morristown Gazette*, thanking you for refraining from taking notice of a letter, published in a recent issue of the *Jonesboro Journal*, reflecting upon the Revenue Service in this District. Whether you did so from conscientious scruples; a doubt of the truth of the charges; or from the desire to keep the peace, I do not know. But I am sure that you have done so with a view to the peace of the community. I am sure that you have done so with a view to the peace of the community. I am sure that you have done so with a view to the peace of the community.

The article which appeared in the *Jonesboro Journal* is doubtless the one referred to in the above. From it I intended condensing and publishing an item, but haste prevented. In that communication to the *Journal* it was charged that certain members of the revenue service had been guilty of most outrageous conduct toward defenseless women, while on one of their predatory raids after illicit distilleries. This is nothing new in the experience of our people, but we were subsequently informed (on hearsay) by a member of the revenue service that the conduct of these men was much worse than represented, so outrageous, indeed, that it could not be described in terms fit to be seen in print, and if the conduct of these men realized one half of the story they justly deserve a life-berth in the State prison. Our informant also said that these men would be attended to by the Federal grand jury. As further confirmation of the story of the *Journal* correspondent, that paper last week said it understood that Col. Miller had suspended the subordinate mentioned in its Carter county letter and that he had told him unless he could bring proof from the parties themselves, contradicting the story which had been told, that he could not longer remain in the office.

This of course proves nothing, convicts no one; but it lends an air of probability bordering on certainty to the charges, and certainly calls for an investigation. Such is the light in which we regard the matter. If these men are guilty, their guilt attaches to none but themselves, and its proper punishment will not only not injure the service, but will discountenance like outrages in the future and expurgate the service of those who lying reproach upon it. We cheerfully bear testimony to the good character of many of its members who are personally known to us and do not consider that they are in the least affected by the misdeeds of others.

## THE PISTOL PLAGUE.

The deplorable tragedy enacted at Knoxville last week seems to have aroused the press and people to the urgent need of some more stringent laws to prevent the carrying of concealed weapons. The reprehensible practice so generally indulged in by our young men, has resulted in many a death in cases where, but for the cowardly spirit of the times, a few good old-fashioned knocks and bruises would have settled the difficulty. But no, they must have small white hands now; get rousing drunk and shoot or stab some fellow being to his mortal hurt and enact through-out the role of pretty little men, as lacking in the true quality of manhood as the veriest hound. In their distorted intellects the bully and the desperado seem to be the true types, the Beau Brummels of manhood. Human life seems as valueless in their regard as their own lives are to themselves and pests to society. Their first preparation for a spree is the placing of a pistol in the pocket, an act as murderous in heart as the possession of Cain. And they go, thus prepared for murder, among friends with a sleeping fire at heart as base in nature as that of Lucius Tarquinius when he sought and accepted the hospitalities of the household of Collatinus.

And they will go on making widows and orphans, cutting off promising lives in the bud, spreading mourning in worthy households and depriving the old of the staff of age, until the peace-loving of the people compel the enactment of the most rigorous preventive laws, and then support the law in punishing to the letter of the law those who can not be guilty of murder when they deliber-

ately prepare to commit it, without lawful cause for such preparation. Trials of this nature should no longer be the mere farcical formula they have become and punishment should be visited on all offenders without regard to any outside circumstances.

## BABCOCK.

When Babcock's dispatches were read in the Avery case that much injured pet of the President immediately dispatched to Attorney Dyer, "I am absolutely innocent, and every telegram which I sent will appear perfectly innocent the moment I can be heard." After his indictment he talked freely on the subject with newspaper men and boasted that the dispatches would all be explained at the trial. Yet the trial has come off and Babcock has been acquitted, but not by making those dispatches appear "perfectly innocent." Far from it. The whole effort in defense was directed to excluding those telegrams, and without a doubt Babcock's acquittal was owing in a great measure to the exclusion of some of the dispatches from the case. These dispatches taken together formed a chain of evidence scarcely necessary of other proof to establish Babcock's complicity, and the exclusion of some of the number of course weakened the evidence for the prosecution. The public mind, however regards Babcock as a guilty man, for it cannot lose sight of the excluded dispatches in its summary of the case, and there is nothing to show, and no attempt made to show, that those dispatches did not originate with Babcock or that he had not received those sent him by McDonald and Joyce. The House of Representatives will now doubtless proceed to investigate matters, and we may have another result than that of Babcock's trial.

## WASHINGTON.

Red Tape—The Investigating Committee—Reduction of the Army—Dismissal of Clerks—New Financial Scheme—The District Board of Audit—The Express Lobby at Work.

[Special Correspondence Union and American.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26, 1876. It is somewhat curious, and no little interesting to persons having business in the departments, to witness the immense amount of circumlocution and red tape, necessary to get even a small matter attended to. The latest illustration of this fact was when the House requested the Secretary of the Treasury, by resolution, to furnish a list of private houses used for public purposes in Washington with amounts paid for rent, &c. When the answer returned to that body, it was found to have passed through the hands of six clerks, and the assistant secretary, all this to prepare a letter which an ordinary man of business could write in a couple of hours.

The work of investigation has now become so immense that the committees have many of them, been compelled to ask leave to sit during the session of the House. The Naval Committee especially has its hands full. At every step they find some wrong to be righted, some additional fraud to be rectified and punished. It would not be at all surprising if these committees should be compelled to sit during the whole recess.

Mr. Banning, of Ohio, has introduced a bill for the gradual reduction of the Army to eight regiments of cavalry and twenty-three of infantry, and a single corps of artillery. In the Pension Office, yesterday, forty-five clerks, mostly ladies, received their dismissal. For the majority of them there has been no real use, and as many were brought here by parties in power, from distant States, it is likely there may be positive suffering among them. A clerkship is certainly the most thankless office on the face of the earth. The pay is a mere pittance compared with what might be earned by the same person in other pursuits, and the life is one of constant and unremitting drudgery, compared with which the existence of a plow boy is paradise.

General Fremont has been before the Committee in regard to the Memphis and El Paso R. R. matter. There was, undoubtedly as it appears, a large amount of money spent, but no Congressman received anything, according to the showing.

The Senate Finance Committee reported a bill Friday, amending the law to refund the national debt which increases the amount of bonds bearing 4 1/2 per cent. interest to five hundred million, and provides for their redemption after thirty years from the date of issue, at the pleasure of the United States.

Nothing attracts more general interest here—as it should all over the whole country—than the investigation of the doings and misdoings of the Board of Audit. It came into existence soon after Shepherd was overthrown. Shepherd, however, merely stepped behind the scenes, for he continued in reality as much master of District affairs as when actually governing. As a sample of how things were managed by the Board of Audit, I may mention the fees paid to Mattingly, Stanton and Harrington three attorneys who conducted Shepherd's defense before a former

committee. The first received, \$5,000; the second, \$4,000; and the last, \$3,000. In addition to these claims (which were paid) a large and exorbitant sum was paid to Murtagh, whose bill, it appears, Shepherd himself promised to secure; but being himself deposed, compelled the Board of Audit (his satellites) to settle in full. This is but one of a thousand instances in which the taxpayers of this District have been fleeced and plundered under the forms of law. These claims were paid, too, against the earnest protest of numbers of influential citizens.

A currency famine seems imminent, since none of the currency received at the Treasury is paid out again, and it is stated that there is not sufficient on hand to last more than two months. Pretending financiers, indeed, are our Republican friends, when they have allowed matters to come to this point.

In the Senate, on Thursday, Senator Withers called up the bill which provides for the restoration to the pension rolls of the names of those veterans of 1812 which have been dropped from the rolls on account of disloyalty. There is really no good and sufficient reason why these few old soldiers—numbering somewhat over two hundred—should be deprived of their pensions, and kept in poverty on account of a single mistake. It may well be taken as a sign of returning good feeling when the Government shows itself willing to set the example of forgetfulness. By the way, it is thought there will be less reduction made in the appropriation for pensions than in any other direction, though many changes will be wrought in the manner of distribution, and a large reduction in the employees of the bureau.

Arguments were listened to on yesterday, by the Committee on Post Offices, in favor of abolishing the carriage of merchandise by that Department. It will of course redound to the interest of the express companies, if such action is decided upon; yet, in view of the apparent unreliability of the mails as evidenced in the number of articles consigned to the Dead-letter Office, and recently sold, it may prove, while somewhat more expensive, a great deal more certain a means of transit.

Hon. John M. Rice, ex-Congressman, and recently Librarian of the House, has resigned; and it is rumored Hon. John D. Young will be appointed in his stead.

The acquittal of Babcock, while it has legally settled his innocence, has not by any means done so morally. People shrug their shoulders and confidently believe that he can never again assume the honorable position which he once occupied in the Army. He may not have received any of the proceeds of those funds, yet he "touched pitch," and was doiled.

Speaker Kerr has returned, after a short vacation. His health seems much improved, and he now presides with his accustomed dignity. Senator Sharon, of Nevada, has finally made up his mind to look somewhat after the interests of his State, and is now in his seat.

It is very patent that serious difficulties have occurred in the Cabinet lately. The President has found in Bristow a man too honest and determined. He thought him like the rest of them—easily controlled and moulded—and was doubtless surprised to find the opposite. The great difficulty was that Bristow was too dull to understand that his prosecutions should not endanger the peace of the White House, or the third term. Matters will probably be amicably settled, as Babcock has escaped absolute punishment. RENO.

## OVER THE STATE.

BROWNSVILLE has a soap factory.

THERE are 1088 persons in the Penitentiary.

Circuit court at Jonesboro April 10th.

Blount county has several interesting reivals in progress.

Carter county is to have a campaign paper, located at "Betseytown."

The Chattanoogaans went into exstasies over Booth as *Hamlet* last Saturday.

The Republican thinks the fruit crop will be short around Maryville this year.

The *Jonesboro Journal* reports the prospects for wheat and winter oats very good up that way.

The *Journal* says there will be five hundred acres of tobacco planted in Washington county this year.

Judge GILLENWATERS will hold court in the new county of Union for the first time the week after the Jonesboro session.

The Maryville Republican has shed its patent outside and is now a six column paper, all home print, and a very handsome sheet, too.

BROWNSVILLE has a project for the construction of a narrow gauge, and the States says if it is not speedily built, Brownsville will be the most eligible town to compete from in the Union. Pretty much the case with this burg.

This colored people of Maryville and vicinity, in convention, have disapproved of the National Convention of colored people called to meet at Nashville April 5th, as it would tend to create a distrust between them and their republican friends.

A GANG of burglars has recently been perpetrating a series of systematic burglaries in lower East Tennessee, gradually coming eastward. The gang has been broken up by the capture of several members.

## SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.

THE Alfontist forces under Campos and Rivera have joined, and are clearing the country of armed Carlists up to the French frontier.

The report that the President contemplates the removal of District Attorney Dyer is denied in authoritative quarters at Washington.

GENERAL BABCOCK has returned to Washington. In conversation with his friends he says he has no present intention of resigning his position of Private Secretary to the President.

It is reported that Spain has agreed to pay an indemnity to the family of M. Reygondeau, who was executed in Cuba, and to court-martial the officer who ordered the execution.

It is reported at Vienna that a great battle has taken place recently near Vassogovich, Herzegovina, in which the Turks were totally defeated.

THERE is a project on foot to make another new county from fractions of Knox, Sevier, Jefferson and Grainger. Suppose while they are aggregating these projects for new counties, they combine on another for a new State.

## JOHNSON CITY.

Ess Eph files to explain—The Negro case—Certificates from other Parties.

JOHNSON CITY, Feb. 28, 1876.

Editors Union and American:

Referring to Mayor Swingle's letter I would also "rise and explain" that his honor has entirely misapprehended Ess Eph. I do not remember to have reflected upon him. I certainly did not so intend. I knew at the time that he had furnished clothing and other articles, but thought he did so at his individual cost, which did not relieve the corporation of its responsibility to have the corpse buried. I submit that the individual action of Mr. Swingle was commendable. He probably had no direction over his council, or control over the cemetery.

The gist of the whole matter was that, ground upon which to inter the corpse could not be obtained. I asked some one, whom I do not now remember, about the cemetery here—if there was a "potter's field"—and was informed that the cemetery was laid off in lots, all of which were owned by citizens, who would not allow the interment, which they have a right to do, I suppose. I further heard that Esq. White, upon whose premises John was buried, was applied to, who replied that, while he had "no objections himself his neighbors had complained of his allowing negroes to be buried there" or words to that effect.

I have several times been informed by the colored people here, that they have sought to purchase a spot to be used by them as a burial ground, but the property holders refused to sell for that purpose. This I give you for what it is worth.

The accompanying certificates will explain themselves. The matter in the first instance was given as an item of news, and it was a surprise to me to discover that I had raised such a merry little burrah. So his Honor may disabuse his mind of the idea of my having any intent to reflect upon him. SILAS FLOURNOY, *ex Ess Eph*.

JOHNSON CITY, Feb. 28, 1876.

I certify that, in the matter of the death of a colored man in this place, which was referred to in a communication over the signature of "Ess Eph" in the *Union and American* of the 15th inst., I learned, a night or two before he died, of his critical condition, and that he had no attendance. I hired a colored man to watch with and attend to him and paid the said attendant for his services. I also certify that it was generally understood that the town authorities refused to have the body buried, at least such was the understanding with a number of persons whom I heard express themselves upon the subject. G. O. BUTLER.

JOHNSON CITY, Feb. 28, 1876.

I certify that I perused the letter of "Ess Eph," published in the *Union and American* of the 15th inst., and in reference thereto I would state that I met a colored man on the street who informed me that the sick man attended to was in a critical condition and had no attendance. I mentioned the matter to Dr. Miller, who replied that he had not been applied to. I then told the boy to go and mention the facts of the case to Dr. Miller, which I have since been informed he did, and that Dr. Miller at once went with him to visit the sick man, who was then beyond medical aid. I was appealed to in regard to his interment, and advised an application to the authorities, this, about 2 o'clock p. m. Several hours subsequent to his decease, and that if they, the authorities, refused, then to bury him upon land of the Railroad Company, and notify Capt. Jacques thereof. Throughout all, I never heard that the Mayor was at all censured, on the contrary, his course was generally commended.

Further, I heard several times that a physician was summoned, who prescribed for him while his money lasted, and then abandoned him. And after his death the colored people wished to bury him, but could not obtain permission to do so in any of the cemetery about town, or upon any premises all about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Rev. Phillips hunted the Marshal up and got him to obtain sepulchre for the body in a grave yard upon the premises of Mrs. Crumley.

A. R. TONCHAY.

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